

28th October 2019

Dear Optical Practice,

Wolverhampton Glaucoma Enhanced Referral Services (GERS)

We would like to inform you of the launch of the Wolverhampton Glaucoma Enhanced Referral Service (GERS). This service is commissioned by Wolverhampton CCG and provided by local optical practices.

From 1st November 2019, patients found by their usual optometrist to be at risk of glaucoma will initially be referred to one of a group of optometrists in Wolverhampton (where the patient is not eligible for the raised IOP repeat measures service). Please note this service has been commissioned for patients registered with a Wolverhampton GP only.

These GERS optometrists have all undertaken a higher qualification in glaucoma to enable them to assess patients to the standards recommended by NICE and Royal College of Ophthalmologists guidance for enhanced case-finding in glaucoma.

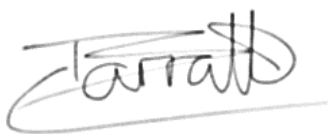
Audit has demonstrated that a high proportion of patients referred with suspected glaucoma are discharged from the Eye Infirmary without treatment; the GERS service has been designed to ensure that only patients at significant risk are referred by repeating some tests and assessing the eye more accurately. The service has been commissioned by Wolverhampton CCG and is run by Primary Eyecare Services Ltd (Optometry Federation) with support from Wolverhampton LOC.

Please ensure your whole practice team are aware of the service and patients eligible are directed to the service as outlined in the pathway overleaf. There is no longer a requirement to direct suspected glaucoma patients via their GP for referral, ***please ensure you help the patient access the GERS service*** which streamlines the pathway for both the patient and their GP. We will be happy to answer any queries you or your colleagues may have about the service – please send any queries to info@primaryeyecare.co.uk.

The full list of practices currently providing the service is shown on the patient leaflet and on our website, www.eyecarewm.co.uk. I have enclosed the pathway outline and process for referring patients overleaf.

In addition to this please find enclosed patient information leaflet including a list of participating practices for you to give to patients.

Yours sincerely,



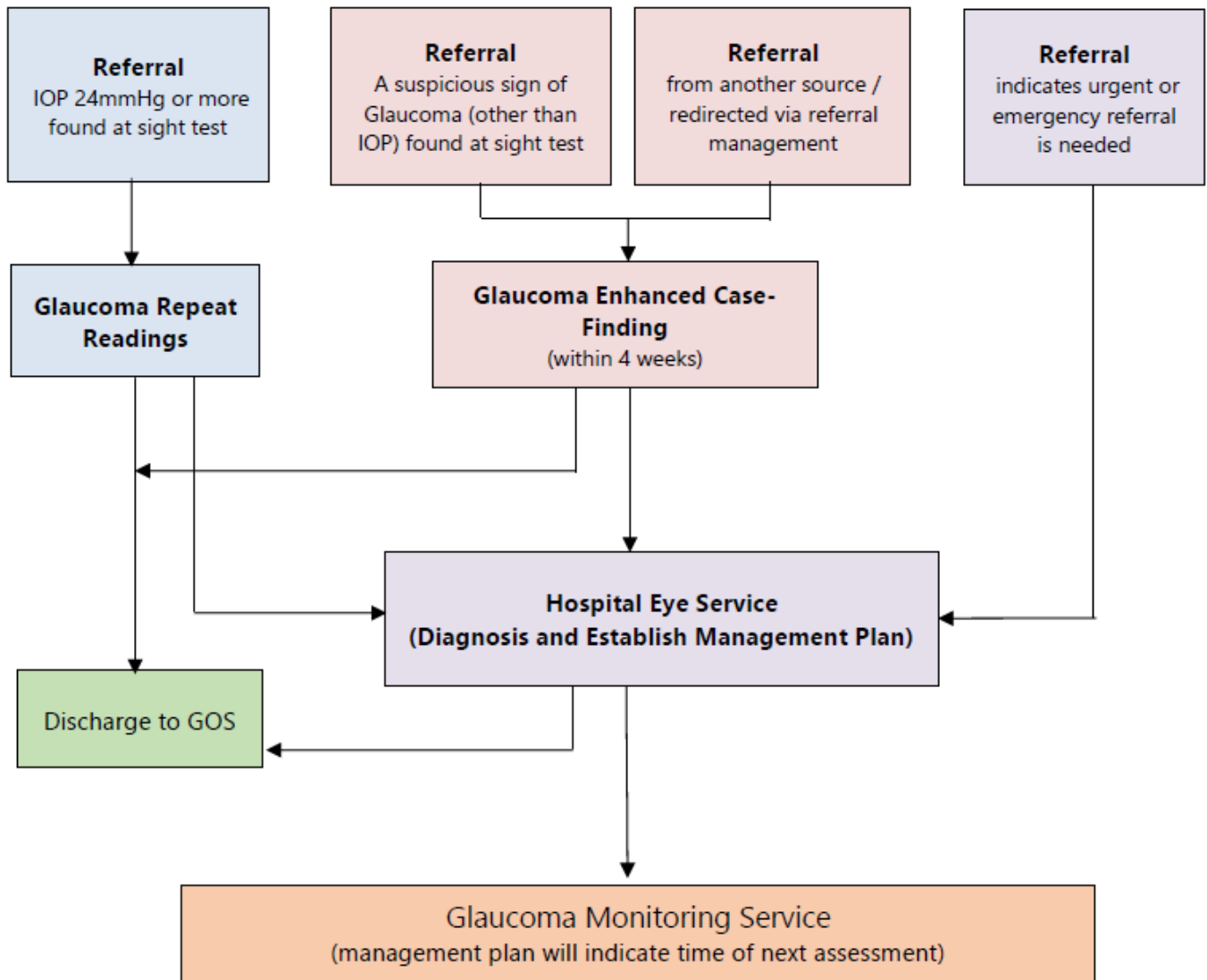
Clare Barratt
Strategic Transformation Manager
Wolverhampton CCG



Dharmesh Patel
Chief Officer
Primary Eye Care Services

October 2019

Wolverhampton Glaucoma Pathway



If you have a patient that you suspect has glaucoma you should refer them as normal but to the GERS service. The service will normally provide an appointment within two-four weeks.

Patients with IOP above 32mmHg or suffering a potential acute glaucoma attack should be referred urgently direct to HES as normal.

Key Steps:

- ***Optical Practice not participating in GERS - offer patient choice of GERS practice using patient information leaflet or the website www.eyecarewm.co.uk.***
- ***Post the referral (GOS 18 or equivalent) with the information you would send on a glaucoma referral to the participating practice that the patient has chosen.***
- ***The GERS practice will contact the patient and book them for an assessment.***

REMEMBER: Please do not send Glaucoma referrals to the GP.

***For queries please contact info@primaryeyecare.co.uk
(Please DO NOT send patient identifiable data)***